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Attorney Docket No. F-5727  
W&W Ref: 1417P P 590

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of:  
Kok-Hwec Ng et al.

Serial No: 09/864,926

Filed: May 24, 2001

For: A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
AUTOMATING THE WORKFLOW IN  
A BLOOD COLLECTION FACILITY

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) Examiner: Unknown  
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) Art Unit:  
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX FREE AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please delete the noted paragraphs and replace them with paragraphs printed below (marked up copies of the corresponding pages are attached as Attachments A, B, and C).

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 5 at line 30 and ending on page 6 at line 14 with the following paragraph:

-- The present invention is directed to an apparatus or system for collecting, using, and storing information in a biological fluid collection and/or processing facility ("facility"). The present invention can be incorporated into an existing facility's system via an upgrade to existing hardware